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Rio de Janeiro.

A NEW CEREAL.

One of the great problems now con-
fronting the government is the ways and
means of assisting the late drouth-stricken
provinces of the north and providing against
fatal results when the drouth shall again
return—as it will most certainly do. These
drouths have not failed to return at frequent
intervals with sufficient intensity to cause some
loss and suffering, and at greater intervals
with sufficient intensity to drive the people
from their homes and to turn the whole
country into a desert. At such times the
loss of property and life is simply beyond
all computation.

The last of these *secas* which has only
just closed, lasted throughout a period of
three years, cost the national treasury about
sixty millions of milreis, and cost Ceará and
the neighboring provinces more than a half
million of lives. The people were driven
into the cities and towns, and thousands of
them were driven into other parts of the
empire where they still remain. All these
years have been years of unparalleled suffer-
ing, and the resources of the imperial
government have been taxed to the uttermost
to meet the necessities of a wide spread
famine and pestilence.

The great *seca* has at last passed and the
government now has an opportunity to
consider causes and remedies. That the
drouth will return, can not be doubted; its
causes lie in climatic conditions over which
there can be no human control. But that
its intensity may be modified and its fatal
results averted, is sufficiently evident to
warrant every effort which it may be in the
power of the government to make.

Among the modifying influences with in
easy reach, that of tree planting—a mea-
sure which the government should lose no
time in putting into execution. The benefi-
cial effects of a wooded country not only
in retaining moisture, but in increasing the
rainfall, have already been observed and
demonstrated. Every acre of unincultivated
land in these northern provinces, which is
able to support it, should be covered with
forest, and the wanton sacrifice of timber
should be prevented by law. The planting
and care of forest trees could easily be se-
cured either by remission of taxes or by
the payment of a small bounty. Other
modifying influences will also be found in
the adoption of irrigating works and artesian
wells wherever the nature of the country
will permit. Although these agencies can
only be used in certain localities, to be de-
termined by the engineer and geologist, they
will always tend to ward off the early
influences of the drouth and to greatly
modify the evils which follow soon after.

Among the alleviating influences are the
improved means of communication which
bring the populations of these unfortunate
localities into speedier communication with
the outside world. This measure has already
been adopted by the government through the
building of railways into the drouth-afflicted
districts. Although this work has thus far
been of great benefit to the starving people
of the north, and will always tend, if pro-
perly managed, to greatly reduce the suf-
ferings of the people in times of drouth, it
is still insufficient to meet all the exigencies
of the case. Railroads can not be built into
every community of those provinces, nor
can the people be provided with means of
easy communication with the two or three
lines projected and built. Some other
means must be placed in the hands of the
people which will mitigate, in great measure,
the early influence of a prolonged *seca* and
therefore prevent the fatal results of the last
visitation which were in full operation be-
fore the rest of the empire became fully
aware of it. This means we trust has been
found in a new cereal which has lately been
attracting considerable attention in some
western localities of the United States. A
cereal which will withstand the effects of a
severe drouth and yet produce abundantly
is certainly a great desideratum for these
drouth-stricken provinces of the north. Con-

cerning this new cereal we extract the
following from the New York Commercial
Bulletin of April 9th:

A revelation of no inconsiderable im-
portance to the grain trade comes to us from
Western Kansas and New Mexico—namely,
the successful development there of what
may be called a new cereal, represented to
be more nutritious than either corn, oats, or
rye, and which will grow where other grains
have withered and died from extreme drouth.
It is called Egyptian corn, or pampas rice,
and the seed is supposed to have been origi-
nally brought to the United States from
Southern Russia by the Mennonite emi-
grants. It was first brought to public notice
some two years ago by Mr. Hollingsworth,
of Chicago, who purchased a ranch of
some 1,800 acres three or four miles south
of Kinsley, on the Atchison, Topeka,
and Santa Fe Railway. Kinsley is situated
in the valley of the Arkansas, in what is
often called the "dry belt," 316 miles west
of Kansas City, and about the same distance
east of Pueblo. Finding the new cereal
growing in great perfection on a neighboring
ranch, he determined to see what he could
do with it. The details of his experiences
are given in a letter from Las Vegas (N. M.)
to the Chicago Tribune, of which the follow-
ing is an extract:

"Mr. Hollingsworth had forty acres of soil turned
over and having procured several quarts of the seed,
with an ordinary seed-planter he broadcast two or
three grains a foot or two apart in the soil. There
had not been a drop of rain for the previous eight
months, and it did not rain for five weeks after the
planting, yet the seed germinated. The corn came
up and grew freely. After it got fairly started, the
land boss came up from the Llano Estacado (Staked
Plains), burning up the grass and every green thing
in the garden, scorching like the blast from a fan,
and it did not affect the new-come from Egypt
a particle. It grew right along in spite of the heat.
Then the rains came on, and the starchy grain
sprang up like a weed. It grew right on, and
sprayed about the 1st of September, yielding some
sixty bushels to the acre, weighing sixty pounds to
the bushel. The stalk is much better for feed than
corn stalks, and makes a good fodder also. Its first
qualities in this respect are of the mountains
is a most important fact, as a few acres will furnish
fuel for a family for an entire winter. From the top
of the stalk, leaves and everything like that of corn,
giving this soon drops over, and the whole bunch
is one mass of the grain. The kernel is about the
size of a grain of wheat, perhaps a little smaller and
more nearly round. Each one is included in a whole
or is a separate kernel. The grain can be ground
into an excellent flour, from which bread and other
food can be made; it can be boiled and eaten as rice,
or cooked whole, and in fact can be used for any
purpose for which ordinary cereals are employed.
A neighbor of Mr. Hollingsworth, who raised a
small crop last year, assured him that it fattened
pigs far better than he has known common corn
or any other food to do so."

It would seem, however, that Mr. Hol-
lingsworth's experiences have not been at all
singular. The publication of his statement
has drawn out similar testimony from other
farmers in all that part of the country, and
this in turn is supported by an official report
on the subject just issued by the Kansas
Board of Agriculture at Topeka. Em-
bodied in this report are statements from
persons who are guaranteed as trustworthy,
having farms in twenty-three counties,
and without exception they fully corroborate
those of Mr. Hollingsworth. In fact, they
would occupy more than a column of the
Bulletin, and we can therefore but briefly
epitomize their more important features.

In Edwards county there are several
farms where the cereal has been cultivated
with great success. One of the largest grow-
ers, at Kinsley, Western Kansas, says:
"Last spring I planted all the rice corn I could
get on 40 acres of soil, a light sandy soil. It yielded
over 100 bushels. Millet, Irish and sweet potatoes,
mellons, pumpkins and squashes, planted by the
side of this corn, failed almost entirely on account
of the extreme drouth. Under similar circumstances
Indian corn would not have produced a 'mitten'.
After eating a new, rank growth spring up from
the roots, and if the season had given us an average
rainfall, I could have got two good crops from the
same planting. I should receive the same cultivation
as common corn, and I believe will produce from
50 to 100 bushels. I have fed this corn to all kinds
of stock, and believe it as good as Indian corn. For
table use, boiled and eaten with milk, or ground
and mixed into bread, etc., it is at least 100 per cent
better than common corn."

A Mr. McCreary writes from Olerick:
"Planted about eight acres of rice corn last year—
some in April, and some as late as June. It all
matured well. Fed hogs exclusively on it last fall,
and it did not make pork equal to common corn. All
kinds of stock eat it well. I have so much faith
in rice corn that I intend to plant it in place of
barley and oats."

Mr. Charles Willets, Ellis county, writes:
"Rice corn was planted June 10, 1879; treated
in all respects as Indian corn. Was very dry when
planted, yet it came up in the time without rain.
Fed the hogs to stock, all eating it with avidity.
Past-season was excessively dry in this section, but
all rice corn fields yielded more than any other
grain. Consider it the most valuable grain
yet introduced for a dry climate."

The Hon. D. H. Waite writes from Larned:
"It is quite prolific. The grain is small, white
color and round. Fowls, hogs and cattle are fond
of it. Drouth does not seem to affect it, as it holds
its color when Indian corn withers."

From Rooks county we have this report:
"Have had several bushels ground into meal,
finding it of excellent quality and in many respects

superior to corn. It supplies the place of denting
specially in an excellent feed for all kinds of animals.
It will stand two or three times the drouth
that Indian corn will, is beyond a doubt grasshopper
and worm proof. Whenever you plant rice corn
you are sure of a crop. A bushel of seed will plant
thirty or twenty acres. It is pure white, and weighs
sixty pounds to the bushel."

Now, a grain that is thus proof against
drouth, worms, grasshoppers and other
pests, and which, crediting these statements,
can be cultivated with less care and ex-
pense than wheat, corn, or oats, cannot fail
to make its way. Nature seems to have
placed it where it was most needed, in an
arid belt, where less hardy grains have many
drumbeats to contend with besides drouth,
and if all that is said of it is correct, is there
any limit to its future development? From
New Mexico to the Canada line there are
tens of thousands of square miles torn far
away from the mountains to be success-
fully irrigated, and yet—thus far, at least
—no far beyond reliable rainfall to be
used for any other purposes than pastur-
age; but this stranger from Africa seems
to have all the requisites for responding to
its food necessities. The Mr. Hollingsworth,
above quoted, says: "If it should fulfil
the promise thus far given, its value to
the country and to humanity must be told
in thousands of millions of dollars." This
has the flavor of exaggeration, seeing how
much depends upon the "if," still, it is to
be noted that the testimony is not of the
kind which usually goes to make up
Western newspaper sensations, but has the
stamp of official authority. The scientists
as well as the farmers have added to this
testimony. A sample of meal made from
the so-called rice corn, at the request of the
Secretary of the Kansas State Board of
Agriculture, was subjected to a chemical
analysis on the 1st of February, at the Uni-
versity laboratory, with results wholly in
line with the foregoing statements.

In order to best exhibit the relation of
the new grain to other grains as an article of
food, the following table has been author-
ized, giving the percentage composition of
the more common cereals:

	Rice	Indian	Wheat	Rye	Oats
Moisture	7.18	11.55	12.44	13.82	15.16
Starch	68.62	50.15	54.84	56.34	45.78
Fat	4.61	4.48	4.81	1.75	1.40
Cellulose	3.00	14.00	4.85	3.93	16.21
Albumen	1.64	2.64	2.93	3.12	6.84
Albuminoids	11.12	8.79	8.90	10.16	12.66
Extraneous matter	1.18	—	—	3.94	1.90
Ash	1.65	1.66	1.81	1.51	1.56

Note.—The great variation in percentage of cellulose is
due to the fact that the methods of determining this
substance are not quite reliable.

From these figures, says the examining
chemist, Prof. Patrick, "it will be seen
that rice corn stands out as an article of food.
In its percentage of 'fat formers' or 'heat-
producers,'—i. e., starch, fat, dextrin and
sugar,—it compares very favorably with all
the grains mentioned; while in its contents
of albuminoids—the 'flesh formers' so called—
it surpasses all the Indian corns of which
I find analyses, and takes rank with wheat,
rye, and oats. The small percentage of
cellulose or woody fibre is also remarkable,
and must be considered an item in favor of
rice corn, since cellulose is almost entirely
non-nutritious." Nothing further need be
added to these statements to secure for them
the attention to which they would certainly
seem entitled. They must have a widespread
interest, whether as regards the development
of the food resources of the new territories
or as introducing a new and, it may be, for-
midable factor into the agriculture and
commerce of the future.

In view of these experiments and results,
it is evident that the new cereal is one which
possesses many of the requisites which
specially adapt it for the northern and in-
terior provinces of Brazil. Inasmuch as the
food product of those regions—and they ex-
tend throughout a large part of interior
Brazil—is very limited, anything which will
add to them and which will render the
people less dependent on outside aid, will
be an inestimable blessing to the country.
From the testimony above given it is seen
that the new cereal produces abundantly,
that it is little affected by drouth, and that
it makes a highly nutritious food. That is
just the thing needed in the north. It may
be that the grain would not succeed as well
there, but the experiment should be tried
by all means. It is an inexpensive means
of relief, and even though there were no
lives dependent upon it, it should have a
prompt and thorough trial. The minister
of empire should lose no time in securing
sufficient of the new cereal for experiment
in different localities of the north and in-
terior. If the trial fails there will be little
pecuniary loss and no personal discredit; if

it succeeds he will have achieved a work
which, in its direct influence upon the self-
supporting abilities of those provinces and
in its indirect influence upon their future
development, will be immeasurably greater
than all the public works that can be
conceived and executed.

CHASTANT'S OBSERVATIONS ON YELLOW FEVER.

Dr. Alcide Chastant, of New Orleans, takes strong
ground against the germ theory of the origin of
yellow fever. All investigations to discover the
manner of its introduction into the large cities
of Europe and the United States have failed, he says,
with all the experience so far had, to establish defi-
nitely the real origin of the disease. Unless the
microscope shall ultimately prove the contrary his
opinion is that while the conditions which produce
yellow fever can be known, the essential nature of
its direct cause will ever remain a mystery. From
a study of its geographical limits and its more or
less irregular invasions he thinks that its outbreak
must be some combination of meteorological and
telluric conditions especially favorable to the devel-
opment of the disease, such as a high temperature
with dampness, conjointly with certain emanations
from the earth.

Touching the character of the disease, Dr. Chas-
tant's long experience warrants, he thinks, the
opinion that each epidemic of yellow fever is of its
own peculiar and special type, varying according to
the locality and the influences which have been
instrumental in bringing it about. The immediate
cause of the disease is the introduction into the
human organism of a specific miasmatic poison, which
has never been chemically or microscopically de-
monstrated, a poison which develops under the
influence of heat, moisture, and other favorable
circumstances.

"Yellow fever is not imported, but is most cer-
tainly endemic. When, however, climatic and tel-
luric conditions concur, and foreign ravens are ex-
isting, it then spreads and becomes epidemic." Such
epidemics cannot be prevented, but can be miti-
gated by general sanitary measures and precautions.
He agrees with the late Dr. Warren Stone, in re-
garding the disease to be non-contagious, but taken
from the atmosphere poisoned by telluric emanations.
The germ theory he regards as not only un-
proven, but highly improbable. On several occa-
sions Dr. Chervin established the matter of black
vomiting and suffered no harm. Neither did Dr.
Guyon, at Marlinque, from similar experiments.
Dr. Finch inoculated dogs with the fresh matter, and
subjected himself to the same operation. He ap-
plied the fluid to the surface of a cat made on his
arm, and several times for two days by means
of sticking plaster, and repeated the experiment
about twenty times in various parts of his body.
He injected the matter in his eyes and swallowed a
large quantity of black vomit, pure and dilute, and
no injurious effects ensued. Cats, dogs, and fowls
were fed with it without sensible effects, and the
fumes obtained by evaporating black vomit did not
harm those who inhaled them. Such heroic ex-
periments may not dispense the germ theory, but
they certainly tell very strongly against it.

Spontaneous cases of yellow fever, Dr. Chastant
holds to be produced by natural causes, arising ex-
clusively from the *crismas* which takes place
in the filth of cities, as well as on the immediate
surface of the earth in certain localities, and these
envelopes not extend beyond the sphere of these
causes. Although these natural causes, whenever
they exist, help to increase the yellow fever, yet
its epidemic feature arises from a more general lar-
va of the soil, the effect of which is produced by a
geological *repulsive action*. Spontaneous cases may
become an epidemic, but he doubts if they can
produce an epidemic, unless there is a concurrence of
both causes.—Scientific American.

SIZE OF AMERICAN FARMS.

In view of the prosperity and rapid development
of agriculture in the United States the following
statistics as to the average size of farms, compiled
by the New York Tribune, will be found highly
interesting. We cannot but be led to those state-
ments of the late editor who believe that in the *grande*
Acacia lies the only salvation of Brazil.

"In 1850 the average size of farms in the United
States was 150 acres in ten more years the average
was four acres less, and at the last census (1870)
a further reduction of 47 acres appeared, and farms
averaged only 153 acres. The decline between 1860
and 1870 was so general that the only exceptions in
all the States and Territories were—an increase in
California from 466 to 482 acres, from 94 to 133 in
Massachusetts, and from 25 to 30 in Utah. Prior
to 1850 land monopoly had some claim to existence
in California; in ten years the average size of farms
was diminished by a reduction of just 4,000 acres! In
Texas the reduction was in the first decade from
942 to 591 acres, and in the second to 301 acres. The
next census is expected to show a further decline.
Minnesota had 157 farms in 1850, 18,181 in 1860,
46,500 in 1870, and now claims more than 68,000,
and her farmers are not much frightened in view of
the competition of half a dozen 'monsters' wheat
farms. There were 5,364 farms of more than 1,000
acres each in 1860, in 1870 there were only 5,720.
In the same period the number from 500 to 1,000
acres declined from 20,319 to 15,872, while all the
classes of smaller farms increased, the ratio of in-
crease getting larger as the scale of size descended."

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PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

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RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 15TH, 1880.

WE ARE glad to announce that the report of the position taken by the minister of agriculture with reference to the American steamship line, which we gave in our last issue, was an entirely mistaken one, and that it credited him with a remark which he never made. In fact what he did say with reference to the payment of the subsidy was the very contrary of that which we reported. Our error in this matter was due to a formal error in the legislative report of the *Jornal do Commercio*, upon which our remarks were based. As the *Jornal* did not correct the error in its report, we were not aware of the injustice which we had done Minister Buarque de Macedo until some days after the publication of our last issue. We are glad to make this correction both as a matter of record and as an act of simple justice.

THE DEATH of Marshal Luiz Alves de Lima e Silva, Duque de Caxias, which took place on the evening of the 7th inst., removes one of the most conspicuous and honored men in the history of the empire of Brazil. Born in 1803 and of a family which stood high in the military and civil circles of the day, and entering military service at a very early age, his public career has been contemporaneous not only with that of the Emperor Dom Pedro II, but even with that of the empire itself. Setting aside the unimportant enlistment at the age of five years, which his father's position as a field marshal and senator permitted, it is sufficiently exact to say that his public service began in 1818, at the age of fifteen years, on his entrance into the royal military academy. That was five years previous to the declaration of Brazilian independence and the establishment of the existing imperial government of Brazil. In 1820 began his career of promotion, and in 1822 the independence of Brazil was declared. From that time down to the present day he has been the favored child of the empire and his career of promotion has been regular and continuous. Others, it may be, have fought harder in battle, and planned more wisely in council, but none outstripped him in unvarying devotion to the imperial cause. From the favored protégé of the first Emperor he became the right arm of the second, and to him more than any other man perhaps is due the credit of pacifying and consolidating the several provinces of the empire. That he did this less with the sword than with the purse and arts of the diplomat is a matter of history; when the day of eulogy shall have passed the impartial historian will then award him his true place in the annals of his country. In the language of extravagant eulogy he is now placed among the few great military leaders of the world; for this coming historian will find no other foundation than the undisputed admiration of a peaceful people whose wars have been but little more than the domestic quarrel or border foray of the hour. With him will pass away much of the formal loyalty and conservatism of the old-time empire, but the example of his faithful adherence to the imperial house will remain green long after his renown as a soldier shall have been forgotten.

Our attention has been frequently called to the scandalous practices of this port in the matter of stealing and shipping seamen. It has been pointed out to us again and again that Rio de Janeiro has become one of the worst ports in this respect known to the commerce of the world. The practice of running off sailors has been an evil of

long standing, and that of exacting illegal fees and "shanghaiing" has grown into an abuse of such proportions that it is openly and avowedly practiced. Whether or not the laws of this port are sufficient to check this criminal practice is not a subject for us to discuss here; the apathy and indifference of the authorities to the whole matter is what concerns us most. Complaints have been made over and over again but to no purpose, and men have been taken away illegally in open day and under the very eyes of the police. The following is an example, the proofs of which are in our possession. On the morning of May 1st a notorious character of this city, named William Wilson, a sailors' boarding-house keeper and the confidential runner of the American consulate, hired five men to assist in getting the American bark *Alma Robinson* ready for sea. The result was that four of these men were taken to sea—the fifth making his escape by jumping into the boat before it could get away. One of the unfortunate men, it is said, is a German who leaves a family in destitute circumstances. Two of them are English, and the nationality of the fourth is unknown to us. We are informed also that the wife of the German entered a complaint to the police authorities, but owing to some understanding between the police and Wilson, nothing has been done. It has long been known that this Wilson, one of the most brutal and disreputable men in this city, has been engaged in stealing and "shanghaiing" sailors. Some months ago he "shanghaied" an English boy, who was here under the care of the British consul. The boy was shipped on an American vessel bound for Rio Grande do Sul. Owing to the protests of the British consul, the American consul was obliged to write to Rio Grande, and the boy was there delivered up and sent to England. Notwithstanding that flagrant case the American consul has kept this Wilson in his confidential employ, the latter even boasting about the streets that he is a clerk in the employ of the United States government. The practices of this man, under the apparent protection of the American consul, are a source of general complaint, and are disgraceful in the highest degree. In the interests of American shipmasters and of the reputation of this port, we would call these outrages to the attention of the minister of justice and ask that a decided check be put upon them.

THE AMERICAN EXHIBITION

THE Emperor of Brazil has ceded for twenty-five years all buildings belonging to the city palace, in extent one block, for deposit and construction of the new exhibition palace.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce*, March 20.

We take the foregoing from the condensed news column of one of our most conservative and conscientious commercial newspapers in the city of New York. Were it an item of sensational correspondence, or a news item in a sensational journal it would scarcely be worth the attention of a correction, but as it has forced its way into good company and is imposing upon respectable people, it calls for a degree of recognition immeasurably beyond its merits. Had the "resident director in New York" of this exhibition scheme—for we see the traces of Mr. John C. Kip Hopper's fertile imagination in the matter—stated that the Brazilian government had been asked for the city palace, we should not have questioned the statement in the slightest degree. The managers of this scheme have never betrayed any bashfulness in the matter of asking. For example: the government is expending large sums of money on the Campo Sant'Anna, or Praça d'Acclamação—in front of the Senate Chamber—for the purpose of creating a small park and public garden—Mr. Hopper asked that it should be turned over to him for his exhibition scheme; the Ajuda convent occupies a large enclosed square near the outer bay and is in the possession of three aged nuns to whom the State has guaranteed the possession of the property during their lives.—Mr. Hopper asked for this also; between the Praça Dom Pedro II and the shore line is a desirable square from which the government removed a lot of unsightly sheds and warehouses not long since and refused to rent it to two or more responsible parties for commercial purposes because of its decision to keep the ground free for public purposes.—Messrs. Hopper and Arthur wanted that also; fronting the city palace and forming a part of the Praça Dom Pedro II is a paved square which serves an admirable purpose for a par-

ade ground and for opening the most dense—habited part of the city to the fresh sea breezes—this too, according to the papers, has been asked for. And now the American public is informed that the city palace itself has been ceded for twenty-five years! We are astonished at Mr. Hopper's modesty in this matter! He might just as well have announced the acquisition of the custom house as a depot, the department of agriculture as an exhibition building, and the Emperor's palace of São Christovão as the exhibitors' boarding house! Our American contemporaries will see the real value of this whole statement when we say that it is worth just as much as an announcement that President Hayes had ceded the Capitol of the United States for an international poultry show. The Emperor of Brazil has no more right to cede the title or use of any public ground or building than the President of the United States. Everything of that nature, even to the granting of a concession to run an express service in connection with the Dom Pedro II railway, must go through the two houses of parliament and the ordinary channels of ministerial and imperial confirmation. Mr. Hopper's bill (No. 54) still slumbers peacefully in a legislative pigeon hole, where, for the credit of those most concerned, it should be allowed to remain undisturbed.

And now that we have entered upon a discussion of this subject, we will add a few more words on the general subject of this "mutually philanthropic and protective" permanent American exhibition, and upon a certain pamphlet issued in New York by Mr. John C. Kip Hopper in the interests of the same. The whole scheme from the proposed magnificent exhibition palace in Rio de Janeiro (the city palace) to the "temporary offices" at 407 and 409 Broadway, New York, from which this ridiculous pamphlet was issued, is a gigantic humbug. Mr. Hopper is not known here, even by the oldest resident, as "formerly a merchant in the city of Rio de Janeiro," and neither his business standing nor his knowledge of the country entitles him to speak of Brazilian commercial affairs with authority. The "wealthy Brazilian association" to which he allied himself on his last visit to Brazil is only one in the thousand which serve to support a few managing officers, and a tremendously long, unintelligible title. The "Brazilian national exhibition" held under the auspices of this association was a small, local affair, and the charitable purpose for which it was held is still awaiting the promised proceeds. The "buildings all ready" which this association is said to possess are still awaiting the birth of an architect and over-credulous contractor. The "honorable names" attached to the prospectus are almost as significant as the same class of names usually attached to the boards of trustees of similar institutions in the United States and England; besides that the "honorary president," Conde d'En, and the "honorary vice-president," Visconde do Rio Branco, were both absent from the empire as the time of the fusion, and could not have authorized the use of their names. The "union" between Mr. Hopper and Mr. Arthur—who is the larger part of the "mutual philanthropy" society—was simply an union between two rivals for the same concession, and is entitled to the same credit as an agreement between any two persons who represent neither capital nor commercial association. If every merchant were to demand good security from these parties for his investments and consignments, the whole thing would fall to the ground. The scheme is extravagant, the objects are visionary, the means are impracticable, and the agents are irresponsible—and that is the sum and substance of the proposed Permanent American Exhibition.

A BRAZILIAN FINANCIAL EXPEDIENT.

New York, April 1, 1880.

To the Editor of the Commercial Bulletin:

A correspondent of the *Herald*, writing from Rio de Janeiro, says: "It is currently rumored that the Brazilian minister of finance is engaged in the preparation of important financial projects for presentation to the next legislature. One is the establishment of a bank of issue, based upon government stocks, by which he hopes to give elasticity to the currency and prevent excessive variations of its gold value. The minister aims to give a certain fixity of value to the 'convertible currency' of the country by means similar to those employed in the United States."

This subject is of some importance, and should be understood better. It seems that the principal object is to prevent excessive fluctuations in gold, and give, by that means, a more fixed value to the convertible currency of the country. What does the minister of finance do? Before his plans have been brought before the legislature, he, through the Bank of Brazil, buys 80,000 bags of coffee to sustain the exchange, most of it being shipped to this country, the net proceeds of which is to be re-

mitted to England to meet the interest on bonds. The same week, when the purchase was made, the exchange at Rio was 23½, and it fell immediately afterwards to 22½, a difference of 5 per cent. against the merchant who shipped coffee two weeks before.

How can an exporter compete with the minister of finance? The consequence will be that this first shipment will be kept for a better market; the exchange will still further decline, perhaps to 20½, as it was last July; and the currency price of coffee will advance a Rio in proportion. If the government does not buy the balance of this crop to sustain the exchange and the price of coffee, the result of this first investment will be a heavy loss to the treasury, and besides will destroy the legitimate business of the importers and bankers.

MERCHANT.

In another column, a correspondent calls attention to a recent financial operation by the Brazilian government which is of no little importance to a class of our importers. The trade of Brazil suffers at times very seriously from the fluctuations in exchange consequent on the inconvertibility of the paper currency; and the government appears to feel itself called upon to remedy these oscillations. It finds a special motive for doing so in the fact that a considerable amount of the national obligations is held in Europe, and the depreciation of exchange frequently causes a heavy loss to the government in the remittance of interest. At the beginning of last month, the government had to remit about \$2,000,000 to London for this purpose, and rather than derange the exchanges by coming into the market as a buyer of bills for such a large amount, the minister of finance hit upon the expedient of buying up some 100,000 bags of coffee, shipping it chiefly to the United States, and remitting the proceeds of its sale to London. Strictly speaking, we should say perhaps that the bank was merely the agent of the treasury in the transaction. The fulfury of this expedient as a means of regulating the exchanges is so well exposed by our correspondent that it is needless to say more on that point. But such operations have such an injurious bearing upon trade with Brazil that the action of Dom Pedro's government in this matter is to be regretted to the last degree.

It is impossible for any government to interfere with the marketing of commodities without injury to all parties. Its action, in such cases, is always arbitrary, regulated by its own temporary convenience and not by any of those considerations that control commercial operations; and yet its transactions are on such a scale that all have to wait upon its action. In the present case 100,000 bags of coffee is prematurely exported, the effect of which is to unnaturally strengthen the market there. When the coffee reaches New York, the supply is to that extent suddenly anticipated and an element of weakness is brought to bear on prices. These inequalities, however, would be soon adjusted, if they were left to be dealt with by ordinary commercial prudence. But the owner of this coffee is not a merchant, but a needy government; and the coffee consequently hangs as a dead weight upon the market, every other holder dreading that its sale may be precipitated at needlessly low prices; and thus the intrusion of the Imperial interloper paralyzes the market. Paralysis at the market of import brings about paralysis at the market of export, and the injury finally falls upon Dom Pedro's subjects. In the meantime, what is the position of the Emperor as a coffee merchant? His own action has produced distrust and paralysis in the market in which he lost to sell. Knowing his financial necessities, no one is in a hurry to buy from him. The larger importers whose trade he has injured find it necessary to recompense themselves by adopting a policy which will enable them to buy his coffee at a low figure; and at last having by his large purchases put up the price at Rio and then put it down here through his excessive offerings, he pockets a heavy loss by his operation; a loss, in all probability, far outweighing the disadvantage he had to encounter in making his remittance in the ordinary way.

It is to be hoped this first experiment of the new Brazilian minister of finance will be the last. It may be a good operation for the Bank of Brazil but it will be a poor one for the government; and it may be hoped that the sound practical sense of the Emperor will prevent its repetition. The merchants of Rio can only condemn such deranging interferences with the course of business; and as for our own merchants, they can have but one recourse if these practices are continued—to treat the Rio market with a caution that will place it more at their mercy and enable them, by buying at lower prices, to compensate themselves for the uncertainties that these extraneous operations bring upon their business. Unfortunately for the Emperor's government this transaction too plainly implies that the finance department still lacks a head capable of introducing a wise policy.—*N. Y. Commercial Bulletin*, April 2.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

—The opening of the third regular session of the present General Assembly on the 3rd inst., was followed on the 4th by the customary election of officers and committees. No change was made in the presiding officers of the two houses. In the Chamber an unimportant scene occurred, the first secretary-elect, Cesário Alvim, persisting in resigning because 19 out of 63 voters were cast against him. Like some other political leaders, Deputy Alvim believes in an unanimous election.

—The Senate decided on the 7th inst. to admit Counselor Christiano Benedicto Ottoni as senator from the province of Espírito Santo, and he accordingly took his seat on the 8th. The Senate also voted on the 10th to admit Counselor Lafayette as senator from Minas Geraes, who took his seat on the following day.

—The budget for the fiscal year 1879-80 was presented to the Chamber on the 17th. The general receipts of the empire are estimated at 176,958,000, and the general expenditures at 178,286,758,74, not taking into account the supplementary credits already authorized.

—The Senate took up the case of Morris N. Kohn versus the director of the Dom Pedro II railway on the 10th inst., and discussed it throughout the 11th and part of the 13th inst.

The settlement of the Moleira and Mansoré railway loan in London involves the sale of £744,000 in United States 4 per cent. bonds. The proceeds of this sale will be distributed among the bondholders at the rate of £45 a bond. The loan was originally issued at £68.

MARRIAGE.

NICOLSON—ACKBAR.—On 12th inst. at Christ Church, Rio de Janeiro, by the Rev. Frederick Young, P. S. Nicolson to Adriana Eugenie, eldest daughter of the late M. A. Ackbar, Esq., of London and Bombay. No cards.

LOCAL NOTES

—The *Vital de Oliveira* arrived at Suex on the 5th ult.

—The number of immigrant arrivals at this port in March was 1,769, and the number of departures 237.

—According to the last report the subscriptions for a monument to General Osorio had reached \$5,700,120.

—The transport *Purus* sailed for Santa Catharina and Rio Grande do Sul on the 4th inst. with 593 immigrants.

—The steamer *Rio Grande*, Capt. Pennington, is now en route from New York to Rio, in place of the *City of Paris*, laid up for repairs.

—The tenor Taniguchi has been made a knight of the order of the Condeição de Villa Visosa, by the King of Portugal. *Muito obrigado!*

—It is announced that the inaugural ceremonies at the opening of the public garden in the Praça da Acclamação will take place early next month.

—Another concession for coffee machinery was granted on the 4th inst. It covers a term of five years. José Godinho is the fortunate man.

—Decree 7,703, of the 4th inst., grants a five years concession to José Ribeiro da Silva for the manufacture and sale of a coffee hulling machine.

—The minister of war, who has been very ill, is now decidedly better. The minister of empire has so far recovered from his late illness as to resume his portfolio.

—The *Relação* of São Paulo has given judgment in favor of the Santos police official who allowed the defaulting cashier Carlos Stelling to slip through his fingers.

—It is finally announced that the Emperor and Empress will leave for Paraná on the 17th inst. The coasting steamer *Rio Grande* is being prepared for their reception.

—Among the arrivals on the French packet *Girondo*, on the 10th inst. were the French and Swedish ministers to Brazil, MM. Leon Alexis Noel and C. J. E. Cederström.

—The minister of agriculture has ordered the construction of a bridge at Barbacena, Minas Geraes, in compliance with petitions from the people of that city.

—Deputy and senator-elect Silveira Martins has been seriously ill with pneumonia since his arrival from Rio Grande on the 4th. Happily he has so far improved as to be now considered out of danger.

—Decree 7,704, of the 4th inst., grants a five years privilege to G. Paile and Leon Joly for the manufacture and sale of sugar refining machinery of their invention.

—By decree 7,701, of the 4th inst., Carlos Ernesto da Silva Brandão received a five years concession for the manufacture and sale of a coffee burning machine.

—Among the arrivals on the Pacific Mail packet *Vulgarato*, of the 12th inst., was Mr. Alexandre Wagner, and Messrs Alfred and Charles McKinnell, of McKinnell & Co., all prominent merchants of this city.

—The recent elections in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Pernambuco have returned Ministers Barão Homem de Mello, Pedro Luiz and Buarque de Macedo at the head of the polls, thus confirming their appointments to the ministry.

—Captain Felinto Perry has been appointed administrator of the Rio Grande bar. If the sands don't move now, a book-keeper and cashier will probably be added to the official superintendence of that unruly locality. There is nothing like an energetic official supervision of matters like this!

—Four robbers attacked a drinking saloon in Engenho Velho on Sunday, the 8th inst., rifled a drawer of 16\$, wounded a clerk with a revolver shot, and then made their escape. The police arrived in time to carry the wounded clerk to the hospital.

—In recognition of his services in the construction of the Batutité railway, the Emperor has conferred the distinction of an official in the Order of the Rose upon Mr. Carlos Alberto Morsing, chief engineer of the line. Orders were also conferred upon six members of Mr. Morsing's engineer corps at the same time.

—According to late custom house regulations no boat is allowed to leave or go out to any merchant ship anchored in the harbor after 8 o'clock in the evening without a permit from the custom house. Each permit will pay a stamp tax of 200 reis. If it be not out of order, we would inquire why the government does not forbid the entrance of any merchant ship into this harbor, and thus put an end to all the agony. If merchants and shipmasters are to be treated as outlaws at all times, it is best to shut them out entirely. We will not discuss the innumerable annoyances and vexations and costs to which these men are put by these petty regulations, they are clearly apparent.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The provincial assembly of Alagoas opened on the 16th ult.

—The Barra tramway at Santos carried 13,341 passengers in April.

—There were 77 burials in the São Paulo cemetery during the month of April.

—The provincial assembly of Rio Grande do Sul opened its sessions at Porto Alegre on the 29th ult.

—The April receipts of the Santos custom house were 611,485\$80; of the internal revenue office 178,550\$563.

—The April receipts of the Rio Grande custom house were 264,589\$317; of the internal revenue office 67,438\$107.

—The provincial budget of Pará shows an estimated receipt of 3,000,000\$ for the year 1890-81, and an estimated expenditure of 2,567,935\$414.

—Joaquim de Barros Penteado has asked for a privilege for exploring guano, etc., on the island of Alcatrazes, Quelimã and Lage, near Santos.

—The receipts of the Pernambuco custom house in April were 864,546\$714; of the collector's office 88,527\$98, and of the provincial *consulato* 170,602\$94.

—A Montevideo paper announces the early arrival of the President of the United States, who is going to visit the Platine republics and Bolivia. That will be news even at Washington.

—In April the receipts of the Bahia custom house were, general 909,009\$136, provincial 145,600\$764; and of the collector's office, general 98,843\$212, provincial 177,001\$393.

—The provincial budget of Pará for 1880-81 appropriates 659,280\$000 for public instruction, 4,420\$ for public workshop 621,500\$ for public works and 271,666\$ for aid to navigation.

—The public debt of the province of Sergipe at the close of the fiscal year 1878-79 was 769,382\$898. This includes a Caixa Economica loan of 180,000\$ and a Banco do Brazil loan of 100,000\$.

—The provincial government of São Paulo has revoked the concession granted to the Paulista railway company October 3, 1877, for the collection of an additional tax of 3 reis per kilo on all coffee transported over their lines.

—The Espírito Santo provincial assembly closed its session on the 9th inst. after voting the provincial budget and a railway law, and authorizing the president to make the reforms in public instruction recommended in his message.

—The receipts of the Santos custom house during the nine months ending April 1, were 4,704,788\$704; same period of 1878-79, 4,662,824\$117. During these periods the receipts from imports were: 1878-79, 2,132,678\$659; 1878-79, 1,912,713\$467.

—At a meeting of the commercial association of Rio Grande it was resolved to petition the government against the present dock tax as weighing too heavily on commerce. A message was also sent to the president of the province, urging the speedy acquisition of a wharf for the improvement of the bar off that port.

—An epidemic of fever, supposed to be typhus, has broken out at Canaguri, Rio Grande do Sul. A telegram of April 30, says that nearly all the inhabitants of the place were ill. As appeal has been made to the provincial authorities for physicians and medicines. The authorities offered a relief credit of 4,000\$ for the afflicted town.

—We see by late Pernambuco papers that the reverend Mariano Nogueira, bishop of New Orleans, has arrived in that city, and is busily engaged in raising money for charitable purposes. The reverend Mariano is a lunatic, if not worse, and the charitable people of Pernambuco will do well to inform him of that fact at an early day.

—In Campinas the enthusiastic admirers of the Brazilian composer, Carlos Gomes, are circulating a subscription paper to raise money for a demonstration when he visits that city. It seems that simple enthusiasm is not quite equal to the occasion—therefore the following largesse is made: "You provide the money, and we'll make the noise!" That might be taken as a realization of a great finance minister's dream—"an equilibrium between the receipts and expenditures."

—About a year ago, says the *Jornal do Recife* of the 20th ult., a freed black woman named Marcelina was again reduced to slavery by being sold in Caruaru, Pernambuco. Marcelina had been freed by her master, José Barbosa Camello, at Boa Jardim, where she lived some time in the full enjoyment of her liberty. She was afterwards captured by João Alves Bezerra Cavalcante and Joaquim Rodrigues de Sôlora Campos, who sold her to José Bezerra Cavalcante Maciel in the district of Palmares. Her whereabouts being discovered she was secretly taken away by the same parties and sold to Joaquim de Barros, of Caruaru, on a forged bill of sale from her former master, Camello. The case is now before the judicial authorities of Taquarigua.

RAILROAD NOTES

—The Rio Verde railway has, we are informed, been placed in competent hands, and preliminary work will soon be commenced.

—According to a recent report there are now 1,826.8 miles of railway under traffic in Brazil, and 1,166.5 miles under construction.

—There are 60,000 locomotives in the United States, each one of which contains 2,800 pieces, requiring renewal every ten or twelve years.

—Messrs. A. Whitney & Sons, the car-wheel makers of Philadelphia, shipped over two thousand of their cast iron chilled wheels, for train cars to England during the past year. They have a large order in hand for the supply of wheels for a railway in Japan. Wheels of their make may be found on nearly every railway in Brazil.

—The Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia built fifty-two locomotives during the month of March last, and have orders on hand for over four hundred more.

—Road locomotives with trains of wagons are used in Nevada, U. S. They take the place of mule trains. The locomotives are of 12-horse power, and weigh seven tons each.

—The public are anxiously awaiting the commencement of work on some one of the projected railways to Petropolis. If the present concessionaries do not take the field shortly there will be another Richmond in the field, who will, like the energetic builder of the Itaboraí railway, have his locomotives running while the rest are squabbling over the way "how not to do it."

—The minister of agriculture notified the president of São Paulo on the 7th inst. that as the imperial government has regularly paid the interest guaranteed on the capital of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway, the provincial assembly should now provide not only for meeting all future payments of interest, but for repaying the imperial government for all amounts advanced. The road was built under a provincial guarantee, secured by the imperial government, and the obligation therefore justly belongs to the province.

WHO FREED THE CATTA BRANCA SLAVES?

We extract the following sentence *verbatim* from the third annual report (Jan. 1883) of Rev. E. Vazconcelos, of the Brazilian Christian Mission of Rio Grande do Sul. Speaking of a short trip to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in December last, the report says:

"We made a hurried trip to Palmira, to shake hands with our honored friends, Dr. and Mrs. Gunning, who have been the means of freeing a large number of slaves of the Del Rey Gold Mining Company, who have just been condemned to pay a heavy indemnification to the Catta Branca blacks, who have so long been illegally held in slavery."

This, we regret to say, places us in a very embarrassing position, inasmuch as we have been accustomed to give credit to Deputy Joaquim Nabuco for bringing the matter before the government in such a manner as to force an early and just decision. Besides that we have given credit to Mr. Charles E. Williams for his patient investigation of the case, and to ourselves for giving the case publicity and urging the just claims of the Catta Branca blacks upon the government. We dislike to call the accuracy of this report into question, but these are not the blacks in whom Dr. Gunning is interested.

This California wine produced in 1879 amounted to five millions of gallons.

Forty-one per cent. of the cheese manufactured in the United States is exported.

There are almost as many miles of railway in the United States as in all Europe.

There is a coal bank on Green River, Ky., that has been on fire for ten or twelve years.

The increase of the public debt of the United States in the month of March was \$14,719,396.95; or at the rate of \$474,819.25 per day.

Several new coffee plantations have been started in Haiti.

Ecuador and Uruguay enter the Postal Union on the 1st of July next.

A company with a capital of \$250,000 has been formed in Germany to work the petroleum springs in the Lanchburg moor.

The manufacture of beer in Great Britain in 1879 amounted to 1,245,500,000 gallons, and in the United States to about 336,300,000 gallons.

An attempt is about to be made to cultivate the cinchona tree in the United States. The climate of California and of northern Georgia and Alabama is said to be suitable.

During the session of the forty-fifth congress of the United States, early in 1879, the tax on manufactured tobacco was reduced from twenty-four to sixteen cents per pound. It was feared that this reduction in the tax would cause a great reduction in the revenue. It now appears, however, that it has caused an actual increase in the revenue, the receipts for the nine months ending Dec. 31, 1879, exceeding those for the same period of 1878 by over \$1,000,000.

MAURICIO SWAIN,
Mechanical Engineer
CURITYVA, PROV. OF PARANÁ.

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City of Rio de Janeiro	Capt. Lewis	June 28	July 5
City of Porto	Capt. Crowell	July 28	Aug. 5
City of Rio de Janeiro	Capt. Lewis	Aug. 28	Sept. 5

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June 9	Neva	Southern and Havre via Bahia, Pernambuco, St. Vicente and Lisbon.

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